

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/520,877
Reply to Office Action dated September 25, 2006

Remarks:

Applicants have read and considered the Office Action dated September 25, 2006 and the references cited therein. Claims 1-15 and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-17 are currently pending.

In the Action, the abstract of the disclosure was objected to because the phrase, "The invention" was included. The Abstract has been amended to delete the objected to language and to further read more clearly.

The Office Action indicated that it was unclear whether sections were present in the application as headings were missing. The specification has been amended to insert headings at the appropriate locations.

The disclosure was objected to because the specification referenced the claims. The specification has been amended and reference to the claims has been deleted.

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Office Action indicated that there were a number of informalities and antecedent basis problems that needed to be corrected. Claims 1-15 and 17 have been amended to make the corrections to the wording raised in the Office Action. In addition, other minor changes have been made to improve the readability of the claims and to delete reference numerals. Applicants assert that the claims as submitted overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In addition, claims 2-16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended and

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Applicants assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been overcome. Claims 2-16 have also been amended and are believed to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. As claims 2-16 depend from claim 1, Applicants assert that the claims are in condition for allowance.

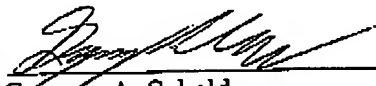
A speedy and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is hereby solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicant's representative at (612) 336-4728.



Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

Dated: 12/11/06

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GAS/km